

short period of duty, Charles had earned the rank of sergeant. He graduated from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and the ROTC program as a distinguished military graduate, and he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry in May 1977. After graduation as an Infantry Lieutenant, he was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Again, Charles' inherent leadership skills were soon recognized. As a junior Second Lieutenant, his Brigade Commander selected him to command Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 3rd Basic Training Brigade.

Because of his mature and talented leadership and his competence, the Commanding General later designated Charles' company as the first at Fort Leonard Wood to integrate women trainees into the basic training program. His hard work and enthusiasm as a company commander ensured that his unit successfully accomplished the challenging task.

Subsequent assignments found Lieutenant Colonel Wilson with increasing amounts of responsibility to include duties as a Company Commander with 197th Separate Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning, Georgia; G3 for Operations and Plans, Schweinfurt Military Community, 3d Infantry Division, Germany; and Deputy Division Comptroller for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

In September 1990, Charles deployed with the "Screaming Eagles" to Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was one of only five Combat Comptrollers in the desert. His expertise in resource management and contracting was invaluable. The Division's units and soldiers had the items they needed to go to war and the items they needed to maintain quality of life at Camp Eagle, Saudi Arabia.

The Army reassigned Colonel Wilson in 1993 to the Pentagon to work in the Inspections Division of the Office of the Inspector General and later with the Army Budget Office as the "point man" for developing and validating the Army's cost of conducting contingency operations. His current and final assignment has been as the Deputy Chief of the Congressional Budget Liaison Office, Army Budget Office. Through his tireless effort and positive "can do" personality, Wilson ensured that soldiers were well represented on Capitol Hill.

Speaking for Kentucky and the nation, I wish to thank this distinguished soldier, his wife Melissa, sons Jason, Andy and daughter Kathryn, and to wish him continued success in future endeavors.

#### DEATH OF COLLEEN CLEARY-MYERS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer tribute to the late Ms. Colleen Cleary-Myers and to offer condolences to her family on their loss.

Mrs. Cleary-Myers was a beloved wife, daughter and mother. I describe

her this way not only because it is true, but because, in a very literal way, it was these ties to these people that helped to define her life. It is these ties which are her legacy.

Mrs. Cleary-Myers, only 30 years old, died of complications associated with a rare form of leukemia called chronic myelogenous. When she learned she was suffering from this illness, she was joyfully pregnant with her first child. Her husband, Michael, shared in this joy and grateful anticipation. In this way, she resembled most other young mothers. But unlike them, she was faced with a cruel choice: she could be treated immediately and risk the life of her baby or she could delay chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, be treated after the child's birth and be unable to have more children. When faced with this dilemma, she did a noble thing. She chose to postpone treatment and looked forward to the birth of her son, Derek Vincent.

Upon learning the news, Mrs. Cleary-Myers' family resolved to support her in any way that they could. Two of her sisters were compatible matches for the required bone marrow transplant and both were eager to assist her.

Tragically, Mrs. Cleary-Myers died on March 15th. While I join her family in mourning her untimely death, I also am uplifted by the example and the standard she sets for all of us. Her example is the example of unselfish love and the standard she sets of willing and uncompensated sacrifice for the sake of another life is one to which we can all aspire. Because this young woman knew, in an intimate way, a simple truth: Every life is infinitely precious and valuable.

Too often, when confronted with an example of courage and sacrifice, we tell ourselves that others are capable of, and perhaps called to, such behavior, but we, most surely, are not. I believe this conclusion is a mistake. The example of Mrs. Cleary-Myers, a young woman living happily and without notoriety, reminds us that we are all capable of such gallantry and, in different ways, are called to it. Her son, Derek Vincent, provides us with eloquent testimony that such gallantry can sometimes mean nothing less than the protection of life itself. May God bless her, her husband and little Derek Vincent.

#### FOOD STAMPS TO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the 1996 welfare law unfairly reduced SSI, Medicaid and food stamp benefits for legal immigrants. Food stamps alone were cut by \$25 billion. No other program has been cut as deeply.

Last year, recognizing that these cuts were too extreme, Congress restored SSI and Medicaid to many elderly and disabled immigrants. It's time to finish the job and ensure that those whose Medicaid and SSI were restored, do not go hungry. And we should do the same for children of legal immigrants.

Last week, the conferees on the Agricultural Research bill made a down

payment toward restoring food stamps for the needy legal immigrants. The conference report on the bill includes \$818 million for this program. It is far less than the \$2 billion proposed in the President's budget, and it covers a much smaller group of immigrants.

The conferees' proposal is a bipartisan effort. Both Republicans and Democrats urged them to take this step as soon as possible.

Yet, the Republican leadership in the Senate is ignoring the urgent need. The Republican budget does not include a single penny to restore food stamps to immigrant children, refugees, Hmong veterans, or elderly and disabled legal immigrants, and the Republican leadership has declined to allow the Senate to pass on the Agricultural Research bill.

According to Department of Agriculture estimates, at least 935,000 low-income legal immigrants lost their federal food stamps in 1997 as a result of the 1996 welfare law. Nearly two-thirds are immigrant families with children.

Many legal immigrants live in poverty and have great difficulty feeding their families. In fact, according to the Department of Agriculture, the average legal immigrant denied food stamps has an income equal to just 62 percent of the poverty line, or about \$8,000 for a family of three.

In addition, thousands of refugees who have applied for citizenship could lose food stamps as they wait in the naturalization backlog for their applications to be processed if the 5 year limit on food stamps for this group is not extended to 7 years.

The effects of these food stamps terminations is not limited to legal immigrants. Their children born here are American citizens but they too are facing sharp reductions in their food stamps. Their children remain eligible for food stamps themselves, but the removal of their parents from the program has meant that the food stamp benefits for their families have been cut by 50 to 70 percent in many cases. 600,000 poor children who are American citizens live in families where food stamp benefits have been reduced for this reason, resulting in less food for all family members, including the children.

The food stamp cut-off has hurt immigrant families, and it has also hurt state and local governments, who must fill the gap. As a result, governors and state legislatures have joined Congress to restore these food stamp benefits. As Governor Bush of Texas said, "Food stamps are a federal program and the federal responsibility, but the federal government is shirking its responsibility. The rules have changed unfairly and retroactively for those least able to help themselves."

It is time for the Senate to act on the bill. It is unconscionable that these benefits can continue to be denied.